SONIC X

Dr. Eggman Goes to War

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ISBN 0-448-44327-9

EAN 9 780448 443270 50499>

by Charlotte Fullerton

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Grosset & Dunlap

GROSSET & DUNLAP
Published by the Penguin Group
Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014 U.S.A.
Penguin Group (Canada), 90 Eglinton Avenue East Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2Y3
(a division of Pearson Penguin Canada Inc.)
Penguin Books Ltd, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England
Penguin Ireland, 25 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
(a division of Penguin Books Ltd)
Penguin Group (Australia), 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124 Australia
(a division of Pearson Australia Group Pty Ltd)
Penguin Books India Pvt Ltd, 11 Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi 110 017, India
Penguin Group (NZ), Cnr Airborne and Rosedale Roads, Albany Auckland 1310 New Zealand
(a division of Pearson New Zealand Ltd)
Penguin Books (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, 24 Sturdee Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg 2196, South Africa

Penguin Books Ltd, Registered Offices:
80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Fullerton, Charlotte.
Dr Eggman goes to war / by Charlotte Fullerton.
p. cm.
Based on an episode of the television program Sonic X.
ISBN 0-448-44327-9 (pbk.)
I. Sonic X (Television program) II. Title. III. Title: Doctor Eggman goes to war
PZ7.F9583Dr 2006
[Fic]—dc22
2005035404

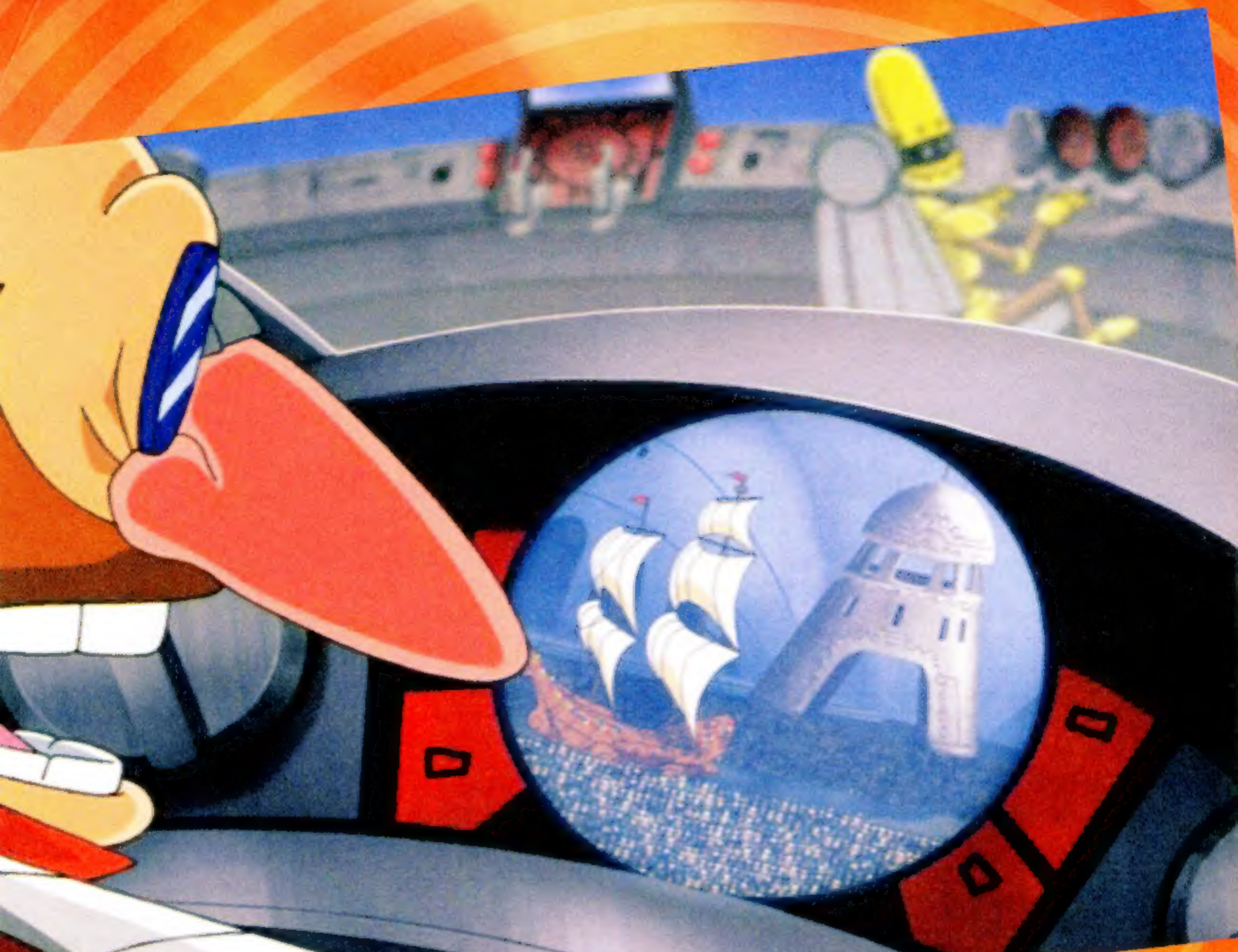
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

New Friends, Old Enemies

"Thank you so much for saving our Aqua Planet!" the Chief Magistrate proclaimed as **The crowd cheered.** Sonic the Hedgehog and his friends had recently rescued this planet from the evil Metarexes' greedy clutches. The citizens were so grateful, they were throwing a festival in the City of Hyde in honor of their brave heroes.

Sonic, Amy, Tails, and their human friend, Chris, found themselves being bounced up into the air on a big net stretched between the masts of a ship-shaped parade float!

The happy crowd **danced and chanted,** "Heave-Ho!" as they bounced their heroes up



Dr. Eggman watches
Sonic and his friends
on Radio Zondi

and down in the net.

"This is why we call our celebrations 'Heave-Ho Festivals,'" explained the Chief Magistrate.

Knuckles and Cosmo ran alongside the float. Cosmo held out the powerful **Chaos Emerald** they had recovered during their earlier adventure saving this planet.

"We've only got six more Chaos Emeralds to look for now," Cosmo beamed proudly.

Little did Sonic and his friends know, they were being watched! For at that very moment, a **remote-controlled spy device** called Radio Zondi was lurking nearby, transmitting everything it saw directly to Sonic's number-one enemy, Dr. Eggman!

Aboard the **spaceship** Egg Crimson, which was hidden close by behind a mountain, Dr. Eggman gleefully watched the live image being sent to his monitor by Radio Zondi.

"How should I get a hold of the Chaos Emerald this time?" schemed Dr. Eggman.

The villain's three henchmen—a small alien

creature by the name of Bokkun and a pair of robots called Decoe and Bocoe—scratched their heads, very confused.

"'This time?'" repeated Decoe.

"As if he's succeeded before?" puzzled Bocoe.

"I heard that!" Dr. Eggman bellowed.

"What is your **latest plan** anyway, Boss?" Bokkun asked, quickly changing the subject.

"Well, if my years of evilness have taught me anything about good guys, it's that they're good! And they think there's goodness in everyone," **snickered** Eggman. "Even me!

"And the most trusting fool of them all," Eggman continued, "is the one called 'Knuckles.'"

He tapped his own scabby knuckles on the top of Decoe's metal head for emphasis.

"Knuckles will be the **key to my victory** today!"

"What is your latest plan anyway, Boss?" ask Bokkun, Decoe, and Bocoe

The Eggman Cometh

A short time later, **elsewhere** on Aqua Planet, Knuckles walked alone on the sand. He had left his friends to enjoy the parade without him. Knuckles was not the kind of guy who liked to participate in celebrations.

"I don't care if it's an honor or not. Nobody tosses me around!" he muttered to himself.

Suddenly, one of Dr. Eggman's vehicles, the Egg Mobile, approached unsteadily in the sky directly above Knuckles. It wobbled, then **crashed** to the ground!

As the smoke cleared, a dazed Dr. Eggman struggled to crawl out of the wreckage, coughing.

"Eggman!" Knuckles grimaced, immediately recognizing the enemy who was always after the Chaos Emeralds for his own nefarious purposes. **Knuckles struck a fighting pose.**

"Knuckles? What are you doing here?"

Eggman wept with great emotion. "Thank goodness I finally found help!"

Knuckles was taken aback by the bad guy's unexpected comment but remained wary. "Help you? Not a chance!"

"Oh, Knuckles! You have to **hear me out!**" wailed Dr. Eggman melodramatically. "My ship ran out of power and crashed on this desolate planet! If I don't find a way to leave, I'll be trapped here the rest of my life!"

Eggman continued slobbering, "It's my fault! I'm getting what I deserve!"

Knuckles couldn't help but feel just a little bit bad for the guy, seeing him crying like this. He patted Eggman on the shoulder. "Come on. Don't be so hard on yourself."

"I just got so carried away with wanting to

take over the universe!" Eggman blubbered. "But if I ever get off this rock, I'll give up my evil ways. I swear!"

This sparked Knuckles's interest.

Eggman continued sobbing, "Oh, if only I had a Chaos Emerald to power my ship, I could leave here and start my new life as a good person!"

Knuckles stood in silent amazement. Wait until Sonic and the others heard this!

A short time later on the outskirts of the City of Hyde, where two ship-shaped parade floats sat parked, Sonic, Cosmo, Cream, Cheese, Amy, Tails, and Chris all gasped in astonishment at Knuckles's unbelievable news.

Sonic was suspicious. "You want us to let Dr. Eggman use the Chaos Emerald?"

Knuckles nodded eagerly. "He's promised to abandon his evil ways if we help him out."

"We've heard that before," replied Tails, unconvinced.

"Dr. Eggman is always saying he'll abandon his evil ways," Cream chimed in, "but he never does."

Everyone gasps in surprise

Knuckles charges at Sonic

"And yet every time, he somehow gets you to believe him," Amy finished a bit snidely.

Knuckles exploded in anger. "Well, I wasn't asking your permission!"

He grabbed the Chaos Emerald from Cosmo and stomped away from his friends, announcing, "I'm the one who found this Emerald, so I'll do what I want with it!"

Before anyone could blink, speedy Sonic disappeared in a blue streak! As Knuckles trudged away, the blue blur zipped in front of him and stopped, revealing Sonic blocking Knuckles's path. "Hold it right there, Knuckles!"

"Out of my way!" Knuckles barked, pushing past Sonic.

"You want to fight me?" Sonic asked his friend.

"You leave me no choice!" Knuckles put the Chaos Emerald down on a rock for safekeeping. Then he and Sonic charged straight at each other!

Causing Chaos

"Yah!" Knuckles threw a punch in Sonic's direction. But the supersonic hedgehog dodged out of the way in the nick of time. Sonic then retaliated by landing many quick punches of his own, one after the other!

Sonic and Knuckles separated angrily. They both backed up and took running starts, furiously zooming toward each other, finally meeting in a thunderous crash!

Then they paused in their battle and tensely faced off, with the Chaos Emerald perched on a rock between them.

"Why isn't anybody stopping them?" Cosmo turned to the rest of the group looking for an

answer. She was **shocked** to find that no one was even paying attention to the fight!

"It's okay," said Tails calmly. "They'll be fine."

"Yeah, don't worry," added Chris nonchalantly. "They do this all the time."

The battle between Sonic and Knuckles raged on, leveling a whole nearby mountain into a cloud of dust!

But the **real danger** was right under their noses.

While our heroes were distracted by Sonic and Knuckles's fight, Dr. Eggman was quietly sneaking toward the unguarded Chaos Emerald!

"No one will even notice me," Eggman chuckled.

"Hi, Dr. Eggman!" called out Bokkun loudly, appearing out of nowhere and scaring his boss half to death. "You forgot your lunch! If you want to **conquer the universe,** you've got to stay healthy, you know!"

"Shh! Be quiet!" whispered Eggman urgently.

Bokkun was completely clueless. He continued

Desperate not to attract attention, Dr. Eggman covets Bokkun's mouth

even more loudly, "Here, have a banana, Boss!"

Desperate not to attract attention, Dr. Eggman covered Bokkun's mouth to force him to be quiet.

"Keep your voice down!" Eggman ordered his overly helpful henchman. "Now go back to the ship and stay there!"

Bokkun nodded silently and flew off, but not before calling back an equally cheerful and loud, "Okay!"

Poor, evil Dr. Eggman cringed.

Dr. Eggman began carefully sneaking toward the Chaos Emerald once again.

"Nothing can stop me now!" he snickered out loud.

"That's what you think, but you're wrong!" Amy stood directly in front of Dr. Eggman, waving her hammer menacingly. Then she flung her hammer down, raising a huge cloud of dust!

Dr. Eggman tried to back away slowly. Tails, Chris, Cream, Cheese, and Cosmo all stepped in and surrounded him.

Knuckles and Sonic did not even pause in their nearby fight. They crashed into each other once again at tremendous speed, creating billowing clouds of dust and debris! Rather than separating this time, they held on and grappled. Sonic glanced over Knuckles's shoulder.

"I had a pretty good feeling we'd be seeing *his* ugly mug." Sonic gestured with his head.

Knuckles followed Sonic's gaze over to their group of friends surrounding Dr. Eggman. Knuckles grimaced in anger.

Dr. Eggman is surrounded

Creeping with the Enemy

"What are you doing here?" Knuckles confronted Dr. Eggman, who remained on the ground, surrounded.

"Me? I . . . er . . ." Dr. Eggman was drenched in sweat but kept his cool.

Thinking quickly, he took out the banana Bokkun had brought him for lunch. "I was just about to consume this delicious banana." He peeled it and took a bite. "Tasty!"

"I know exactly what you're doing here, Eggman." Amy **rolled her eyes** in disgust.

"You went to Knuckles," Amy continued without pausing for any breath, "'cause you knew he'd have pity on you, and he and Sonic

would fight about it, so you could go behind their backs and steal the Chaos Emerald!"

Knuckles was furious. "Eggman! Is that true?"

"No, of course not!" the Doctor insisted with pleading eyes. "She's lying, Knuckles!"

"Payback time!" Amy cried out, raising her hammer up high into striking position.

"No, Amy!" ordered Knuckles.

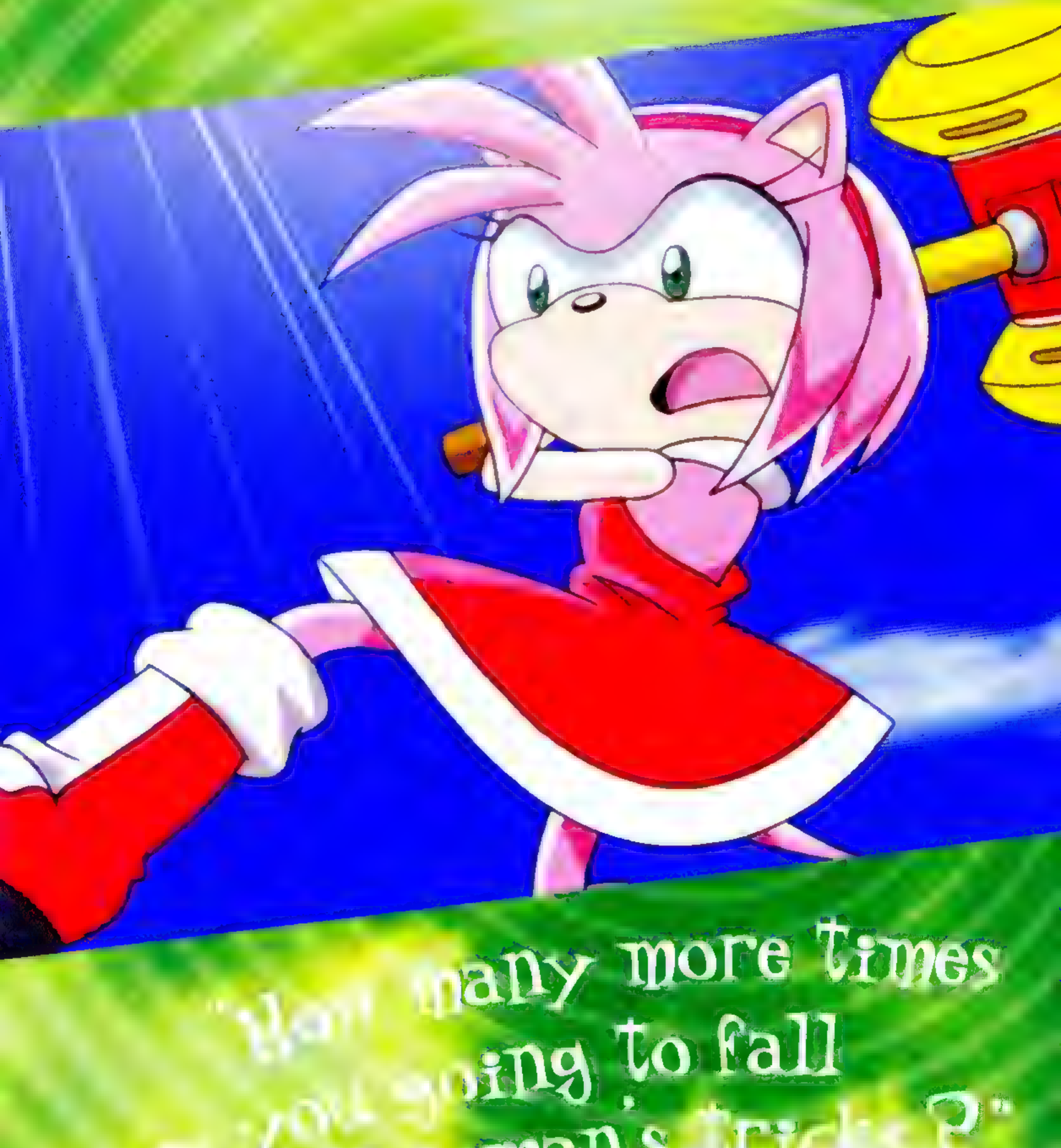
Amy flung her hammer down next to Eggman, and it hit the ground with a deafening boom, filling the air with a blinding cloud of dust!

It was impossible to see anything for several seconds.

When air finally cleared, Knuckles had vanished!

And so had Dr. Eggman!

At the top of a hill a little ways away, Knuckles stood cradling Dr. Eggman in his arms like a baby. He had picked him up and whisked him away behind the safety of Amy's dust cloud.



"How many more times are you going to fall for Eggman's tricks?"

"How can I repay you, Knuckles?" Eggman blubbered.

"Try a diet," Knuckles kidded, struggling to hold him.

Amy hollered over to Knuckles, "You have got to be kidding me! How many more times are you going to fall for Eggman's tricks? Think about it!"

Knuckles thought back to several times in the past when Dr. Eggman had begged Knuckles for a Chaos Emerald. Each time, Eggman had pretended to want the Emerald for an innocent reason, but in the end, he always wanted it so he could start an evil empire.

"Seriously, Eggman's never going to change," said Amy, certain that Knuckles must be convinced now.

But Knuckles wouldn't budge. "I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt and help him get off this planet!"

"Eggman lied before," pleaded Cream, "and now he's lying again!"

His friends' attitude just made Knuckles dig in his heels even more. "I'm giving him the Chaos Emerald!"

Amy stood between Knuckles and the Chaos Emerald. She yelled, "You're going to have to go through me to get it!"

In a flash, Sonic became a **speedy blue blur** and whizzed over to Amy's side. "But first," he added, "you'll have to go through me!"

ng him the
Chaos

Truth or Consequences

"If you say so!" Knuckles replied eagerly.

Cosmo leaped between Sonic and Knuckles. "Stop it! We have to focus on the greater crises threatening all of us! If all we do is argue and fight, how are we supposed to band together and save the universe?"

"Out of the way, Cosmo," ordered Knuckles.

"We don't want you to get hurt!" added Sonic.

Sonic and Knuckles pushed Cosmo aside for her own good. Then the two of them faced off, nose-to-nose!

Suddenly, without any warning, the sandy ground underfoot began to quake violently!

Five gigantic fingers ripped their way up out of the sand and wrapped around Cosmo!

These gigantic fingers belonged to an enormous robot called Egg Mars, which now stood up to its full height, holding terrified little Cosmo in the palm of its huge metallic hand!

From inside Egg Mars's cockpit, Decoe and Bocoe shouted down to their evil leader.

"Bokkun told us you were in trouble, a jam, a predicament!" called out Decoe.

"He told us **nobody fell for your plan** to steal the Chaos Emerald!" continued Bocoe.

"I wouldn't go as far as to say 'nobody' fell for it," the Doctor replied testily. "Knuckles certainly did!" said Eggman before he could catch himself. "Oops!" Eggman quickly covered his mouth, but it was too late.

"Eggman! You tricked me!" Knuckles seethed, **outraged** and embarrassed to learn he'd been had. Again!

The Metarex Frog

"I hate to say 'I told you so,'" Sonic teased.

Dr. Eggman climbed into Egg Mars's empty left hand and let it lift him up into the robot's cockpit.

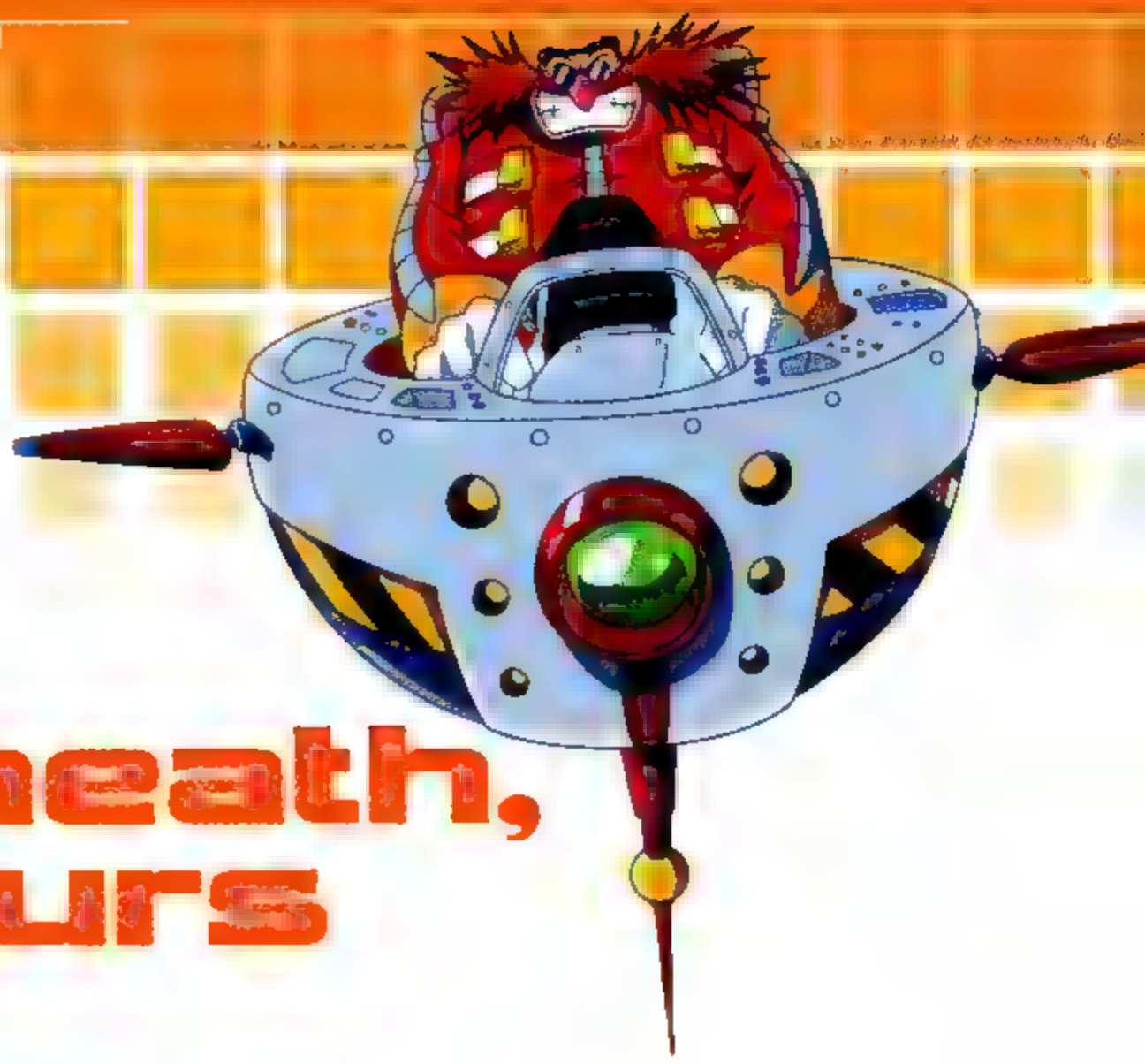
Once in the pilot's seat behind Decoe and Bocoe, **Dr. Eggman frantically pressed buttons and threw switches.** This made the Egg Mars stick out its right fist, which was still holding a helpless Cosmo in its grip!

"Now you'll give me that Emerald," Dr. Eggman threatened Sonic and friends on the ground below, "or I'll crush your frail friend in my mammoth metal hand!"

But before anyone could respond, the planet's surface once again began trembling violently!

The ground directly beneath the Chaos Emerald began to rise. An enormous metallic creature, making a hoarse croaking sound, was **erupting out of the sand!**

"It's the Metarex!" screamed Chris.



From Beneath, It Devours

A gigantic croaking Metarex Frog emerged from its hiding place under the sand. With a snap, **The Frog flicked out its tongue** and snagged the Chaos Emerald!

Before anyone could react, the Metarex Frog swallowed the Chaos Emerald with a mighty gulp!

Inside the cockpit of Egg Mars, Dr. **Eggman was furious.** "That thing ate the Emerald!" he shrieked. "I've got to destroy that amphibian, and once I do, the Emerald is mine!"

Under Eggman's control, Egg Mars began taking giant steps toward the Metarex Frog.

But Dr. Eggman was now so focused on going after the Chaos Emerald, he forgot he was still holding Cosmo captive in Egg Mars's right hand. And without so much as a thought, the huge robot simply dropped her!

"Ahhh!" Cosmo fell, **spinning down through the air.** Knuckles sped underneath her hoping to catch her just in time. His plan worked. Cosmo landed safely in his arms. "Are you okay?" Knuckles asked her.

"Never mind me!" Cosmo yelled. "The Chaos Emerald!"

In a desperate attempt to get at the Chaos Emerald in the Metarex's belly, Dr. Eggman now crashed his Egg Mars robot right into the Frog! Then he pushed a button in Egg Mars's cockpit that transformed his robot's hand into **a giant drill!** The whirring drill spun violently against the surface of the Metarex Frog, making a terrible piercing sound. Sparks flew. But it didn't make a scratch!

"The drill's not working!" Dr. Eggman screeched.

Cosmo

"That's some frog," admired Bocoe.

The Metarex Frog defended itself by sticking out its tongue and charging at Eggman's robot warrior, toppling Egg Mars to the ground in a heap.

Suddenly the voice of the Metarex Frog **boomed,** punctuated by its own croaking. "You who disturb the order of the universe, croak, you cannot have the Chaos Emeralds! You misuse their power, croak! We are the only ones who should possess the Emeralds, croak!"

"I'll take a stab at it anyway!" scoffed Dr. Eggman.

Under Dr. Eggman's command, the robot Egg Mars stood up and **towered over** the Metarex Frog.

Egg Mars's hand reached onto its own back and grasped the sword kept there for just such emergencies!

"Now stand still, so I can make a Frog-kabob!" Dr. Eggman laughed as **Egg Mars thrust its sword at the Metarex.**

The Frog shot out its long, thin tongue, which wrapped around Egg Mars's sword like a rope! But Egg Mars grabbed the tongue and pulled, dragging the giant Frog closer!

The Metarex Frog then surprised everyone by generating an **electrical shock** that sizzled and sparked as it traveled down the long half-robot, half-frog's tongue like a wire.

When the electricity reached Egg Mars, Dr. Eggman's robot lit up like fireworks!

Inside Egg Mars's cockpit, bolts of electricity flashed all around the panicking Decoe, Bocoe, and Dr. Eggman, who howled in shock.

"Whaaa!" cried the bad guys, buzzing.

Egg Mars rattled and sparked, thanks to the out-of-control electrical currents. Dr. Eggman's robot shuddered, then finally exploded!

"I think that Frog is trying to cook us alive!" Decoe yelped as he, Bocoe, and Dr. Eggman were thrown clear from the wreckage.

Eggman and Bocoe Part 1

They **soared high into the air** until at last they were out of sight.

Victorious, the Metarex Frog retracted its long, thin tongue with a disgusting, **"Slurp!"**

The Planet Egg Plan

Knuckles decided to use his Shovel Claws attack against the evil Metarex Frog. But try as he might, his Shovel Claws didn't make a single dent! Knuckles fell to the ground, exhausted.

A blue blur whizzed by. It was Sonic using his Spin Attack on the Metarex! **Sparks flew** as Sonic and the metal Frog collided. Sonic bounced backward, landing on the ground next to Knuckles. They both looked up and saw that the unharmed Frog was lashing its tongue out toward them!

All of a sudden, the Frog retracted its tongue. "I cannot allow you to deter me!" croaked the Metarex. "I have a mission! I have

Chris gets the Metarex's attention

come for the Planet Egg!"

Cosmo and the rest of the group gasped in horror.

"If it captures the Planet Egg," Cosmo stammered, "the whole planet will flood again!"

Their large froggy foe turned and began to hop away.

Knuckles and Sonic raced to block its path.

"We're not done with you yet!" Sonic hollered.

The Metarex had some more tricks up its sleeve. Or in this case, under its chin, where razor-sharp thorns shot out.

"Flying Body Attack, croak!" The Frog leaped at Sonic and Knuckles, casting a dark shadow over them.

"Oh, man! How do we stop this thing?" gulped Knuckles.

"Hey, Metarex!" Chris's voice called out. "Over here!"

High above them all, perched in the crow's nest of a ship-shaped parade float, was Chris

holding the Planet Egg!

"So! You've been hiding it from me!" croaked the Frog.

"If you want it, come and get it!" Chris shouted.

Chris released a rope, unfurling the sails. As wind filled the sails, the parade float slowly began to move.

"You will regret this!" the Metarex Frog spat angrily, taking a **flying leap** toward the float.

Chris laughed. "Ha! Come catch me if you can!"

The Frog angrily hopped after the parade float.

"Closer . . . Closer . . ." Chris muttered under his breath.

Then he shouted, **"Now!"**

Hugging the Planet Egg, Chris dove off the mast! He landed safely in the big net strung below.

"Like the Heave-Ho Festival!" cheered Cream.

Chris diving off the mast

Chris bounced back up in the air. At his highest point, he let go of the Planet Egg, which was flung into the wild blue yonder!

Using the Metarex's head as his springboard, Knuckles launched himself into the air and caught the Planet Egg before the Frog could snatch it with its tongue!

Just then, the Frog's tongue shot out of its mouth and wrapped around airborne Knuckles, squeezing him tightly!

Sonic Boom

Sonic ran over to a patch of ground that was beginning to rise and crumble. The sand fell away revealing the Blue Typhoon, hidden underground!

Aboard the spaceship Blue Typhoon, the Sonic Driver cannon slowly rose into firing position.

A blue blur whooshed into the cannon's barrel. It was Sonic, about to become a human cannonball.

Or rather, a hedgehog cannonball!

On the bridge of the Blue Typhoon, Tails was working his way down the checklist for firing the cannon.

Metarex Frog

The Metarex Frog is destroyed!

"Connecting the energy from the energy chamber to the main cannon!" he announced. "Pressuring the energy within the cannon's electrical ducts!"

On the viewscreen, Tails locked the Frog in his sights. "Target, Metarex up ahead!"

Tails issued the final order to Sonic over the ship's intercom. **"Sonic Driver cannon, fire!"**

The whirling blue blur that was Sonic shot out of the cannon and struck the Metarex Frog perfectly!

There was a **tremendous explosion.** The Metarex Frog was destroyed!

Freed from the Metarex Frog's tongue, Knuckles dropped from the sky. He landed in a crouch, carefully protecting the Planet Egg in his arms.

Sonic glided safely onto the mast of the parade float, where he and Chris slapped a high five.

Just then, to everyone's surprise, the

Planet Egg began to deflate!

"Huh?" Knuckles gasped. "I didn't do it!"

"Is that a **beach ball**?" Amy wondered.

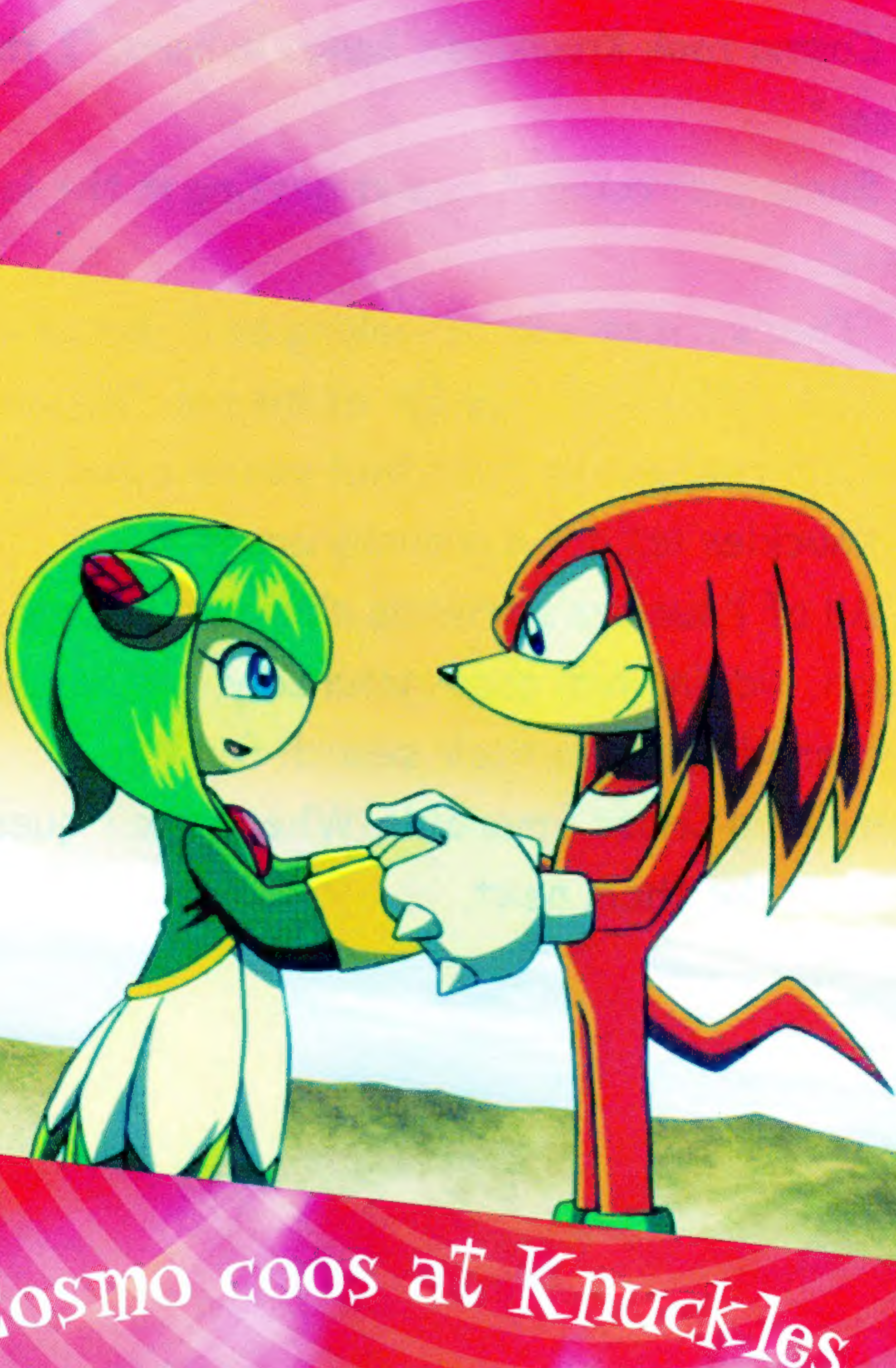
"Sure is," said Chris. "Best way I could think of to catch that crafty Metarex Frog. Pretty clever, don't ya think?"

Once Chris and Sonic joined the others on the ground, Knuckles said, "I owe all of you a really big apology." He felt very foolish for letting Dr. Eggman trick him today.

"We're not going to hold it against you," Sonic reassured his buddy. "You made a bad call, that's all."

"Don't feel bad, Knuckles," cooed Cosmo earnestly. "You want to believe there's good in everybody. Because, like me, you have a **dream** that everyone in the universe will unite one day."

"Thanks for looking at it that way, Cosmo." Knuckles smiled. "Who knows. Maybe you're right!"



Cosmo coos at Knuckles

Cosmo took Knuckles's hands in hers. "I think I am."

Sonic just couldn't resist getting in the last word.

"That's a nice way of looking at it, Knuckles." **Sonic winked slyly** at his pal. "But it doesn't change the fact that you're a sucker!"

Knuckles let out a grouchy grunt.

All of Knuckles's friends shared a hearty laugh, kidding him good-naturedly, as they now prepared to begin their search for the remaining Chaos Emeralds. Where their quest would take them next, **they could only imagine!**

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Follow Sonic as he battles through different worlds to find the Chaos Emeralds before his enemies do . . . Can you keep up?

While the citizens of Aqua Planet honor Sonic and friends for saving their lives, Dr. Eggman makes Knuckles an offer he can't refuse. The evil doctor promises to vacate Aqua Planet and abandon his wicked ways, but only if Knuckles lends him the Chaos Emerald to power his spaceship.

. . . Is Eggman really planning to turn over a new leaf and fly away forever, or is Knuckles the one who's being taken for a ride?

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ISBN 0 448-44327 9
EAN 9 780448 443270 50499 >